

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06803 021630Z
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AID-01 SS-15 NEA-07 NSC-06 ISO-00 SSM-01
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R 021623Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6208
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS CAIRO 06803

CODEL OBERSTAR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP EG (OBERSTAR, JAMES)
SUBJECT: CODEL OBERSTAR

REF: STATE 51544

1. WELCOME PRIVATE VISIT OF REP. AND MRS. OBERSTAR. CONTROL OFFICER WILL BE AMBASSADOR'S STAFF ASSISTANT HAYWOOD RANKIN.

2. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT CODEL WISHES DO AND SEE MORE THAN IS LIKELY TO BE FEASIBLE IN SHORT TIME IT WILL BE IN EGYPT. PROPOSED ITINERARY IN REFTEL SUGGESTS CODEL FLY FROM AMMAN TO CAIRO AND CONDUCT MEETINGS WITH SADAT AND KAISOONI ON THURSDAY, MARCH 30, AS WELL AS UNDERTAKING SOME SIGHTSEEING. ONLY MORNING FLIGHT WE KNOW FROM AMMAN ON THURSDAYS IS EGYPT AIR 815 ARRIVING CAIRO AT 1100; EVEN IF FLIGHT ON TIME, CODEL WOULD NOT ARRIVE DOWNTOWN CAIRO BEFORE NOON. PLEASE NOTE THURSDAY IS END OF EGYPTIAN
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WORK WEEK AND GOE OFFICES USUALLY CLOSE AROUND NOON. PRESIDENT SADAT FASTS ON THURSDAYS AND NORMALLY DOES NOT RECEIVE VISITORS.

3. SUGGEST THEREFORE CODEL ADVANCE SCHEDULE TO ARRIVE CAIRO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

4. WE SHALL ALSO BE PLEASED TO SET UP VISIT TO SINAI FIELD MISSION FRIDAY, MARCH 31. TRAVEL TO SFM BASE CAMP IS THREE TO FOUR HOURS ONE-WAY, DEPENDING ON TRAFFIC (SHOULD BE LIGHT ON FRIDAY), SANDSTORMS, FERRY DELAYS, ETC. BRIEFINGS AND LUNCH AT BASE CAMP REQUIRE MINIMUM TWO HOURS;

VISIT TO MITLA WEST WATCH STATION BY LONGER ROUTE ON RETURN TO SUEZ REQUIRES ANOTHER HOUR; VISIT TO GIDDI EAST WATCH STATION WOULD REQUIRE HOUR AND HALF. THUS TRIP TO SFM IS NINE TO TWELVE HOUR DAY. THERE MAY BE TIME FOR DRIVE THROUGH CITY OF SUEZ OR DRIVE TO ISMAILIA ALONG CANAL, BUT ONLY AT RISK OF PARING DOWN SFM VISIT TO BARE MINIMUM AND PROLONGING DAY.

5. DELUXE HOTELS CHARGE LE 27/DAY PLUS SERVICE CHARGES, SO THAT USUAL FARE IS ABOUT \$45/DAY. LIMOUSINES RENT FOR LE 15 PER EIGHT-HOUR PERIOD.

6. PLEASE ADVISE HOTEL, FLIGHT TIMES, AND SCHEDULE PREFERENCES. EILTS

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